



# Girls' Education Program

When you educate a girl, everything changes



30 million young adolescent girls around the world are out of school.

Help us make change possible by reaching **more than 46,000** girls this year with our Girls' Education Program.



## Girls' Education: Supporting Girls Through Graduation

The single best approach to improving the status of women is through education. Studies have shown that educated women are more likely to have smaller and healthier families, lower HIV infection rates, and higher wages. They are also more likely to marry later and educate their own children — ending the cycle of illiteracy in one generation.

Yet, girls are disadvantaged when it comes to education. Cultural bias, gender discrimination and safety concerns discourage girls from learning, and these pressures become more pronounced when girls reach secondary school. Out of the 124 million children and young adolescents who are out of school, 52% are girls.

Through our Girls' Education Program, we ensure that girls complete secondary school and have the skills to negotiate key life decisions. We take a long-term, holistic approach by going beyond academics to build the skills that girls need to self-advocate, find power in their voices and chart a path that they choose for themselves, rather than one forced upon them.

## OUR RESULTS

More than **95,000 girls reached** through our program since 2000, and more than **6,200 participants have graduated** from secondary school.

In 2017, **95% of girls who remained in our program advanced to the next grade.**

More than **80% of 2016 program graduates enrolled in further education or found work** within the first year after graduation.

**Participation in life skills sessions has risen substantially**, from 35% in 2008 to 88% in 2017. Grade advancement has been higher, and dropout lower, among girls who participate in life skills education.



## Our Approach

Our Girls' Education Program is designed to improve learning and life outcomes, allowing girls to graduate secondary school with the ability to think critically, rely on themselves to meet day-to-day challenges and be primary decision-makers. Our program includes the following core components, which are provided based on local conditions, individual need and grade level:

### 1 Life Skills Education

Life skills are competencies — such as empathy, critical thinking and self-efficacy — that girls need to make informed decisions. When girls learn these skills and how to apply them in their daily lives, they are better equipped to handle the challenges they may face, from gender bias to finding time to study. Our program gives girls the opportunity to learn and practice life skills through classes, workshops and extracurricular activities.



### 2 Mentorship

Essential to our program are our social mobilizers, local women who are hired as mentors and work with girls and their families to ensure that girls stay in school, participate in life skills activities, and navigate the challenges of adolescence with the ability to make their own life choices, both personally and professionally.



### 3 Material Support

For some families, the cost of a school uniform or safe transportation is prohibitive to sending their daughters to school. We provide need-based material support for school costs such as tuition fees, uniforms and exam preparation services so parents don't have to make the choice between putting food on the table and investing in education.



### 4 Family, School and Community Engagement

Through our work with families, schools and communities, we aim to create environments that support girls' success in school and beyond. To engage these stakeholders, we hold community meetings where parents and caretakers can discuss the importance of sending all of their children — not just the boys — to school, and the challenges they are facing. We also engage program alumnae in our activities, as they are valuable role models for younger girls, and can contribute to the program as mentors and guest speakers.



#### Strong Government Partnerships

In addition to our core program work, our teams collaborate with government officials at the local, regional and national levels to promote girl-friendly learning environments. Our government partnerships ensure that our program is complementary to national efforts, sustainable and nationally scalable.

## INVEST WITH CONFIDENCE

### Fiscal Excellence

Received Charity Navigator's highest four-star rating for sound fiscal management 12 times since 2007.

### Leader in Literacy

Received the 2014 U.S. Library of Congress Literacy award, the 2011 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy, and recognized as a 2014 World's Children's Prize Honorary Laureate.

### Social Innovator

Chosen as Twitter's first Corporate Social Innovation partner and three-time winner of the Skoll Foundation's Award for Social Entrepreneurship.

Have questions?  
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